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Signed: 

John W. Crosby

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

**WEHRUNG, et al.**

Examiner:

**To be assigned**Serial No.: **To be assigned**Group Art Unit: **To be assigned**Filing Date: **To be assigned**

For: **Distributed Control System  
Architecture and Method for a  
Material Transport System**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**Box PATENT APPLICATION FEE**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This preliminary amendment is directed to the Continuation Application filed herewith and is submitted in response to the Office Action dated September 6, 2000, a copy of which is attached for your convenience. Please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Unchanged) A distributed control system for a material transport system, comprising:  
a high-level controller;  
at least one mid-level controller coupled to the high level controller; and